Kalyx
01
SESUNA MIKABE PRESENTS
岬下部せすな

Chapter 1

Kalyx

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01

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ACTION COMICS

Kalyx

SESUNA MIKABE PRESENTS

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Chapter 1

YEAR 2050
SAITAMA, OOMIYA DISTRICT
ALL RIGHT! FORM TWO LINES!
HOLD YOUR RATION TICKETS IN YOUR RIGHT HAND SO WE CAN KEEP THE LINE MOVING QUICKLY!
OH.. THERE ISN'T MUCH RICE TODAY, IS THERE. ?
YEAH,
IT SEEMS THAT THE FIELDS IN KAWAGOE DISTRICT WERE RUINED BY SAND.

SINCE NOBODY IS PUTTING UP FOOD FOR SALE ON THE MARKET,
..AND THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN GET RICE IS THROUGH RATION DISTRIBUTION.
REALLY~?! I HEARD THAT THEY HAD PROBLEMS LAST MONTH AT AGO AS WELL.

PRICES ON THE BLACK MARKET ARE GOING TO GO UP AGAIN, AREN'T THEY..?

GOT IT.
INCLUDE THAT IN THE REPORT.
REPORTS OF MUDDY WATER IN DISTRICT 28. STARTED LAST WEEK
HEY! SAWA-MURA~!

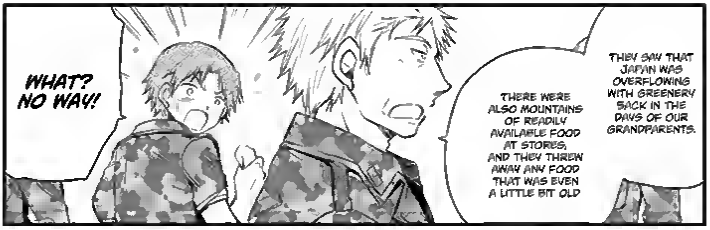
THEY'VE ALREADY BEEN STANDING FOR 40 YEARS NOW AFTER ALL...
I WONDER IF IT'S THE USUAL ISSUE WITH THE WEIGHT OF THE SAND SNAPPING THE OLD DETERIORATING LINES.
SAWA MURA.
THEY'RE REPORTING THAT THE POWER LINES IN DISTRICT 181 ARE DOWN.
ALONG WITH OUR SECOND BATCH OF RATIONS A WEEK WE GET ALL SORTS OF REPAIR REQUESTS FROM ALL OVER THE PLACE, DON'T WE?
THE DRAIN PIPES ARE REACHING THE END OF THEIR LIFESPAN AS WELL.
IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN JUST IGNORE IT
SAND, SAND, SAND SAND... IT'S GETTING REALLY ANNOYING HEARING ABOUT SAND ALL THE TIME..
HAA AAA AH~
BUT I THINK YOU COULD SAY THAT SAND CLOGGING IS THE CAUSE OF ABOUT 30% OF THE PROBLEMS SHOWING UP.
DILAPIDATION IS PROBABLY ALSO PART OF IT,

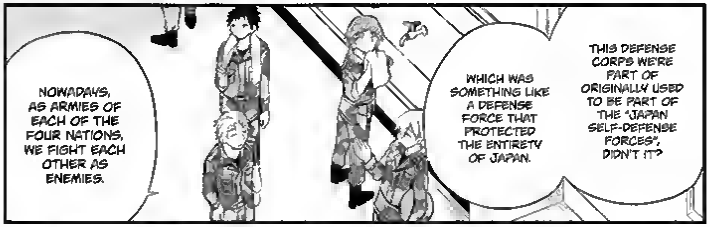
Chapter 1
[May I Fall in Love With You?]
NOT IF THE DESERT HAS EXPANDED THIS MUCH...
BURORORORORO

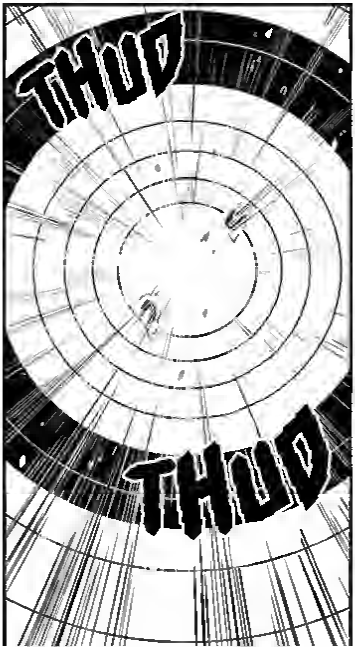
ARE YOU SERIOUS WHEN YOU SAY THAT THIS CHAIN OF ISLANDS CALLED JAPAN WAS REALLY A UNITED COUNTRY IN THE PAST?
WELL, I GUESS KIDS YOUR AGE WOULDN'T KNOW. AFTER ALL, EVEN MY PARENTS ONLY HAVE FAINT MEMORIES.

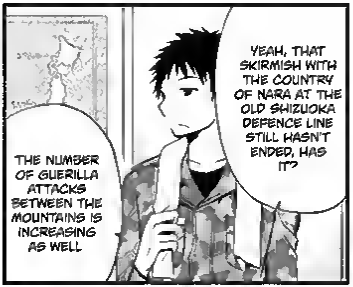
SAITAMA DEFENSE CORPS ASAKA HEADQUARTERS
MAN... IT REALLY DOESN'T SEEM REAL.

SAPPORO
SAITAMA
FUKUOKA
NARA
NOWADAYS, IT'S SPLIT INTO THESE FOUR INDEPENDENT NATIONS.

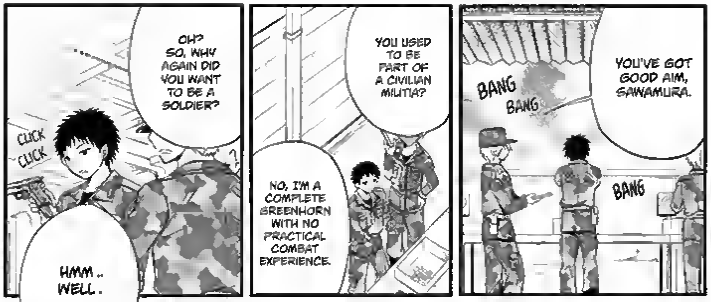

WHAT? NO WAY!
THERE WERE ALSO MOUNTAINS OF READILY AVAILABLE FOOD AT STORES, AND THEY THREW AWAY ANY FOOD THAT WAS EVEN A LITTLE BIT OLD
THEY SAW THAT JAPAN WAS OVERFLOWING WITH GREENERY BACK IN THE DAYS OF OUR GRANDPARENTS.


NOWADAYS, AS ARMIES OF EACH OF THE FOUR NATIONS, WE FIGHT EACH OTHER AS ENEMIES.
WHICH WAS SOMETHING LIKE A DEFENSE FORCE THAT PROTECTED THE ENTIRETY OF JAPAN.
THIS DEFENSE CORPS WE'RE PART OF ORIGINALLY USED TO BE PART OF THE "JAPAN SELF-DEFENSE FORCES", DIDN'T IT?

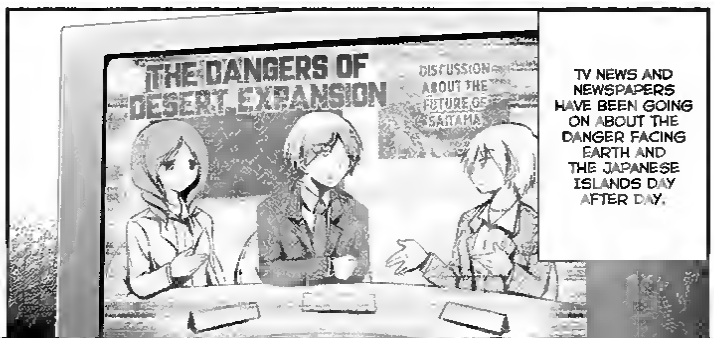

THUD
THUD


THE NUMBER OF GUERILLA ATTACKS BETWEEN THE MOUNTAINS IS INCREASING AS WELL
YEAH, THAT SKIRMISH WITH THE COUNTRY OF NARA AT THE OLD SHIZUOKA DEFENCE LINE STILL HASN'T ENDED, HAS IT?

BANG
BANG
I HOPE THE FIGHTING DOESN'T SPREAD ALL THE WAY HERE

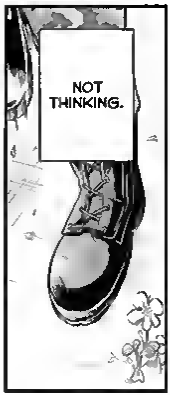

CLICK CLICK
OH? SO, WHY AGAIN DID YOU WANT TO BE A SOLDIER?
YOU USED TO BE PART OF A CIVILIAN MILITIA?
NO, I'M A COMPLETE GREENHORN WITH NO PRACTICAL COMBAT EXPERIENCE.
BANG
BANG
BANG
YOU'VE GOT GOOD AIM, SAWAMURA.

HMM.. WELL.
I GUESS I FIGURED AT LEAST I WOULDN'T GO HUNGRY.
SHICK

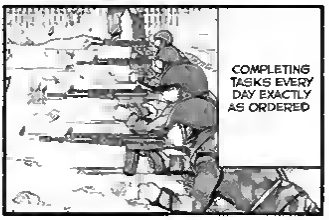

THE DANGERS OF DESERT EXPANSION
DISCUSSION ABOUT THE FUTURE OF SAITAMA
TV NEWS AND NEWSPAPERS HAVE BEEN GOING ON ABOUT THE DANGER FACING EARTH AND THE JAPANESE ISLANDS DAY AFTER DAY.

HERE, HOWEVER,
THERE ISN'T ENOUGH FOOD IN THE CITIES, NOR ARE THERE ANY JOBS.
CLACK CLACK
THERE ARE BOTH.
I MEAN, WITH THE FOOD AND ECONOMIC SITUATION AT THE MOMENT..
REMIND ME AGAIN WHY YOU BECAME A SOLDIER?
I WANTED TO BE A CHEF, SO I GUESS I'M A BIT PICKY ABOUT FLAVOUR TOO, THOUGH.
I SEE..
I GUESS AS LONG AS IT FILLS YOUR BELLY,
YOU REALLY DON'T CARE ABOUT THE FLAVOR, DO YOU, SAWAMURA?
IS IT?
ISN'T THE FLAVOR OF TODAY'S SOUP A BIT THIN?

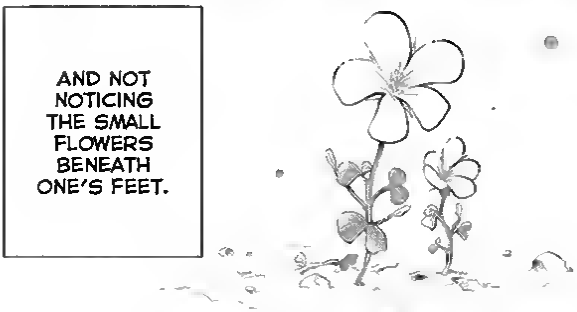
I DON'T THINK ANYONE DID.
MAN, I NEVER EXPECTED TO BECOME A SOLDIER...

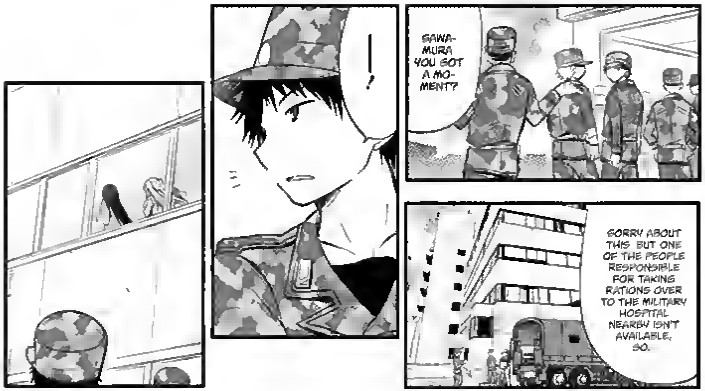

NOT THINKING.

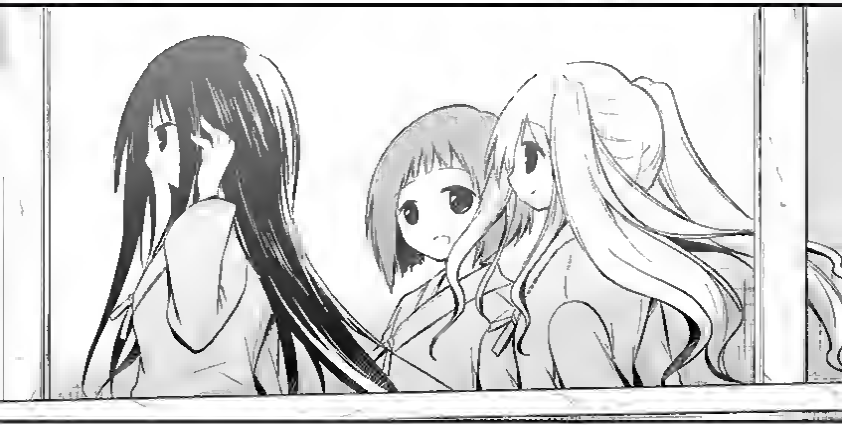
LIVING WITH THE FLOW IS EASIER.

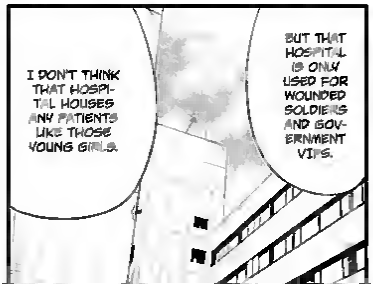

COMPLETING TASKS EVERY DAY EXACTLY AS ORDERED

IN THIS DAY AND AGE THAT IS MORE THAN MOST COULD HOPE FOR
SATING ONE'S DESIRES WITH FOOD AND SLEEP


AND NOT NOTICING THE SMALL FLOWERS BENEATH ONE'S FEET.


!
SAWAMURA YOU GOT A MOMENT?
SORRY ABOUT THIS, BUT ONE OF THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR TAKING RATIONS OVER TO THE MILITARY HOSPITAL NEARBY ISN'T AVAILABLE, SO.




I DON'T THINK THAT HOSPITAL HOUSES ANY PATIENTS LIKE THOSE YOUNG GIRLS.
BUT THAT HOSPITAL IS ONLY USED FOR WOUNDED SOLDIERS AND GOVERNMENT VIPS.

NO. THOSE ARE PATIENT SCRUBS THEY'RE WEARING.
Lucky~♥
OH~! NURSES, HUH?
HUH?

WHO ARE?
OH, ABOUT THAT. THIS IS JUST A RUMOR I HEARD,
BUT APPARENTLY THEY'RE BEING KEPT HERE

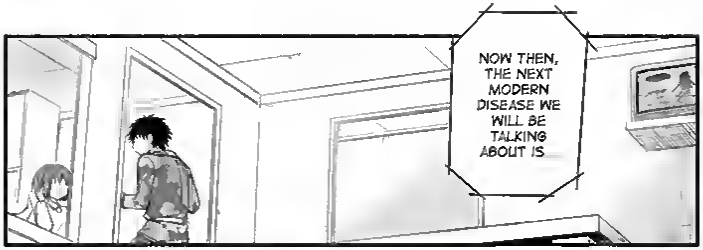
THOSE AFORE-MENTIONED "FLOWER GIRLS".

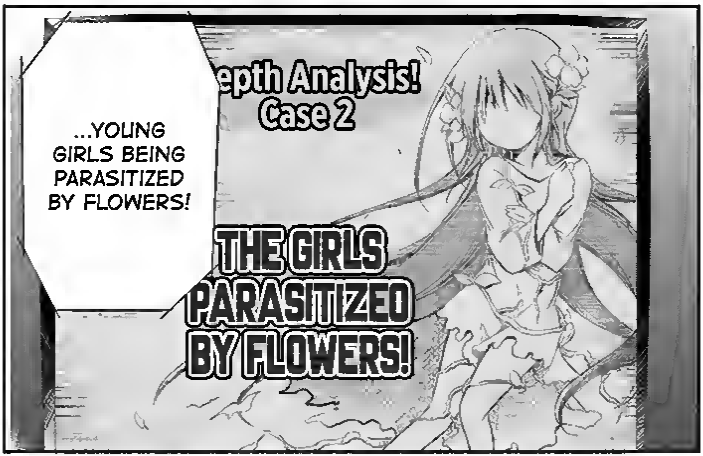
3 HOUR SPECIAL
IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF MODERN DAY ILLNESSES!
TODAY'S TOPIC WILL BE A SPECIAL EDITION ON MODERN DAY ILLNESSES
THE TWO O'CLOCK INFORMATION CHANNEL
TRANSPORTING SUPPLIES TOOK TOO LONG, SO LUNCH HAS ALREADY ENDED...
CRAP...
SLIDE
DAMN, THEY'VE ALREADY FINISHED CLEANING UP THE KITCHEN...
I WONDER IF EVERYONE'S ALREADY LEFT...
Lunch? We've already eaten, you know?
Haven't you had lunch yet?
...AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO MISSED OUT ON LUNCH DESPITE BEING THE ONE HELPING OUT?
...THE ORIGINAL TRANSPORTATION MEMBERS SAID THEY ATE BEFORE GETTING TO WORK...

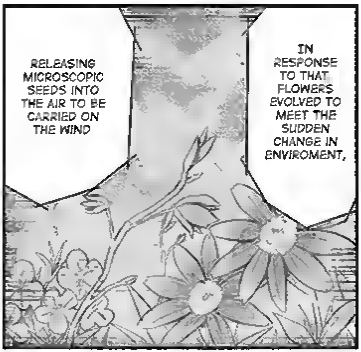
RUSTLE
MNN...
KICK
WHAT??
HUH?!!
SPLASH
Uwa ah!!
KYA AH!!
HEY JUST SO WE'RE CLEAR, I HAVE NO INTENTION OF BECOMING STOCK FOR DINNER TONIGHT

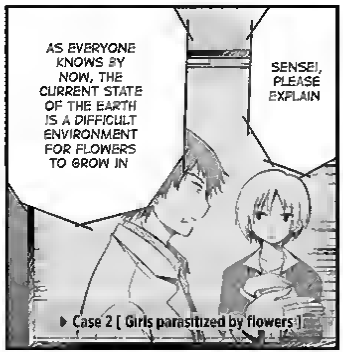
ARE YOU OKAY?
YES.
SORRY.
dizzy
dizzy
A MIDDLE SCHOOLER? WHY IS SHE SOMEWHERE LIKE THIS?
HUH?
OW
OW OW
I WAS ASKED.
...TO TAKE OUT THE GIANT POT FROM THE TOP SHELF..
FWISH

AH—


NOW THEN, THE NEXT MODERN DISEASE WE WILL BE TALKING ABOUT IS...


epth Analysis!
Case 2
...YOUNG GIRLS BEING PARASITIZED BY FLOWERS!
THE GIRLS PARASITIZED BY FLOWERS!


RELEASING MICROSCOPIC SEEDS INTO THE AIR TO BE CARRIED ON THE WIND
IN RESPONSE TO THAT, FLOWERS EVOLVED TO MEET THE SUDDEN CHANGE IN ENVIROMENT,


AS EVERYONE KNOWS BY NOW, THE CURRENT STATE OF THE EARTH IS A DIFFICULT ENVIRONMENT FOR FLOWERS TO GROW IN
SENSEI, PLEASE EXPLAIN
Case 2 [Girls parasitized by flowers]

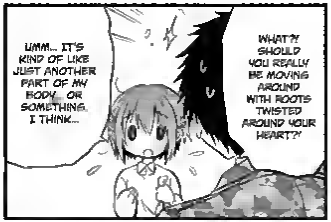
THOSE SEEDS THEN WRAP THEMSELVES AROUND THE HEARTS OF GIRLS WHO BREATHE THEM IN.

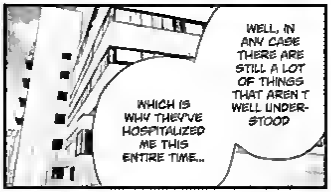
ALTHOUGH CASES OF THIS DISEASE HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED ALL OVER THE WORLD,
A CURE HAS YET TO BE FOUND
▶Case 2 [Girls parasitized by flowers]

"HEARTS"?! SO THEY'RE RECEIVING SUSTENANCE FROM THE GIRLS?!
YES. AND THE ROOT STALKS DEVELOPING INSIDE THE BODY
APPEAR OUTWARDLY ON PLACES SUCH AS THE EAR OR ON THE FACE LIKE THIS

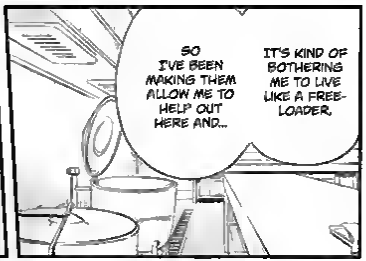
WHERE ANY DEVELOPMENTS ARE CLOSELY OBSERVED
GIRLS AFFLICTED BY THIS DISEASE ARE ADMITED TO GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS
Y-YEAH, I KNOW
AH—, SECONDARY INFECTION THROUGH PHYSICAL CONTACT AND TRAVELING THROUGH THE AIR ISN'T POSSIBLE, SO...
OH NO
SORRY FOR FREEZING UP LIKE THAT— OR I MEAN...
I'M SORRY FOR SURPRISING YOU
. IS THE VERY IMAGE OF HEALTH ITSELF
FUNDAMENTALLY BEING ABLE TO LIVE ONE'S LIFE NORMALLY..
I'M HELPING OUT
BUT WHAT'S A SICK PERSON DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

WAVE
OH, EVEN IF I SAY "THEY'VE HOSPITALIZED ME", THE ROOM THEY'VE PROVIDED IS REALLY AMAZING,
AND SINCE THEY AREN'T CHARGING ME ANY MONEY...

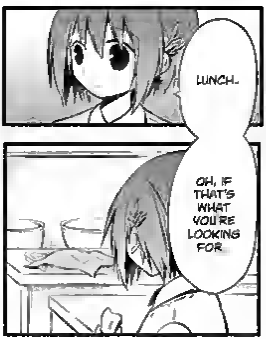

UMM... IT'S KIND OF LIKE JUST ANOTHER PART OF MY BODY... OR SOMETHING. I THINK...
WHAT?! SHOULD YOU REALLY BE MOVING AROUND WITH ROOTS TWISTED AROUND YOUR HEART?


WELL, IN ANY CASE THERE ARE STILL A LOT OF THINGS THAT AREN'T WELL UNDERSTOOD
WHICH IS WHY THEY'VE HOSPITALIZED ME THIS ENTIRE TIME...

I SEE
I'M KEEPING THE ILLNESS I HAVE A SECRET FROM EVERY-ONE ELSE
SHHH
Indeed
It's cause a big fuss after all


SO I'VE BEEN MAKING THEM ALLOW ME TO HELP OUT HERE AND...
IT'S KIND OF BOTHERING ME TO LIVE LIKE A FREE-LOADER.

THERE'S ABOUT ENOUGH LEFT FOR ONE PERSON
I'LL GO REHEAT IT
THANKS.


LUNCH...
OH, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.

OH DID YOU BY ANY CHANCE HAVE BUSINESS HERE?
YEAH.
IS THERE ANY FOOD LEFT FROM LUNCH?

THANKS.
THANK YOU FOR WAITING.
SO THAT RUMOR ABOUT THE HOSPITAL EARLIER WAS TRUE.
CLACK
WHEW, MY STOMACH IS GROWLING.
DROOL
STARE...
GROWL
GROWL

OH... DON'T TELL ME, THIS IS HER...?
HUH?! OH, I HAVE A STAFF LUNCH PREPARED, SO...
DID YOU HAVE LUNCH?
HM? BUT I FEEL LIKE THERE WASN'T ANYTHING THERE EXCEPT THIS ONE PLATE, SO...
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO BE OVERLY CONSIDERATE.
EH, BUT... AS AN APOLOGY FOR WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER...
IT'S FINE, YOU CAN HAVE IT BACK
SLIDE
I WON'T BE ABLE TO SHOW MY FACE IN PUBLIC IF I STEAL FOOD FROM A LITTLE GIRL.
WAVE
WAVE
BUT-BUT WORKING SOLDIERS HAVE PRECE-DENCE!
WHY ARE YOU THE ONE GETTING MAD?!
GLARE
A-ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU CAN'T EAT MY FOOD?!

So you want to eat it after all, don't you?!!
Whoa!
UGUU
It's just as hard for the one holding them-selves back, you know!!
Hurry up and eat it already!! Remove its presence from before my eyes!
UGUU
UGUU
Oh man... She's actually crying...
SOB
SOB
Ugu... Eat it...
Hurry up and eat it...
SOB
I see.
Clink
Fine, I got it
I'll gladly take this for my meal
She's awfully stubborn about the weirdest things...
Tap
Tap
And,
Like this..

I'LL SPLIT HALF TO SHARE WITH YOU.
BUT..
HEY, COME ON NOW I'M FREE TO DO WHAT I WANT WITH MY FOOD, AREN'T I?
FURTHER MORE,
THOSE LEAVES AROUND YOUR EARS.
I'D FEEL GUILTY IF THEY WERE TO WITHER AWAY.

COME ON
THE FOOD'S GOING TO GET COLD.
HERE, CHOPSTICKS.
OH.
SIDE DISHES.
RICE.
AH.
OKAY
YUP.
CLINK
TH-
THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD.

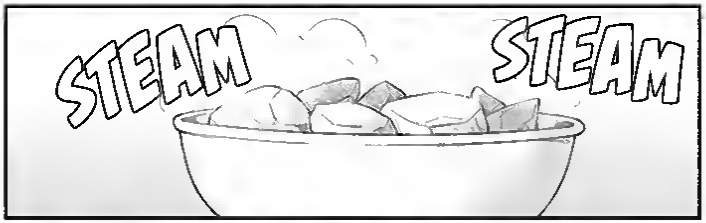
MHM...
SAWAMURA SOUSHI.
MY RANK IS PRIVATE.
OH I'VE STILL YET TO INTRODUCE MYSELF
I'M NADEKO.
CAFETERIA
IT SEEMS THAT NADEKO HELPS ALMOST EVERY DAY IN THE KITCHEN.
JAAAAA
CHOP CHOP
CHOP CHOP
BUSTLE BUSTLE
Add more oil!
We're out of... side dishes!
BUSTLE
BUSTLE BUSTLE
I'M SURPRISED THERE AREN'T MORE RUMORS
IN A PLACE LIKE THIS OVERRUN BY MEN, YOU'D THINK SHE'D STAND OUT A LOT...

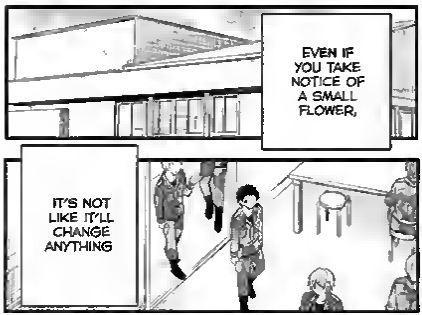
NOBODY HAS AN EYE FOR ANYTHING EXCEPT FOOD WHEN THEY'RE IN THE CAFETERIA
PEAK TIME!
BUSTLE BUSTLE
OH... SHE'S HIDDEN BENEATH EVERYTHING ELSE BE CAUSE SHE'S SO SMALL
I FILL UP MY STOMACH UNTIL IT FEELS SATISFIED.
CLINK
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE ANY-THING HAS CHANGED JUST BE-CAUSE I MET THAT GIRL.
...!?
CLATTER
AND THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.
SLOWLY
WOW THAT'S A LOT OF POTATOES TO PEEL.
STAGGER
OH MAN... THAT'S A DANGEROUS WAY TO PEEL THEM...
PANT PANT
TREMBLE
STAGGER

PLEASE, EAT ALL YOU WANT.
D-D-DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
!
WELL, IT'S HER JOB IN THE END.
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
HEY.
IS THAT FOR DINNER?
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT AT THIS PACE.

SHING
YOU'RE DOING IT WRONG.
WHIZZ
INSTEAD OF MOVING YOUR HAND YOU ROLL THE POTATO LIKE THIS
SEE?
YOU'VE ALREADY SUFFERED A LOT OF INJURIES, HAVEN'T YOU...?
IF I HURRY, THEN I'LL CUT MY HAND...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
NONONONO. PRETTY MUCH ANY SOLDIER YOU RUN INTO CAN AT LEAST DO THIS MUCH.
They force you to cook when you enlist.
SAWAMURA... ARE YOU A PROFESSIONAL CHEF?!
G-God ll Fuahh!!
IF DINNER STARTS EVEN A LITTLE BIT LATE, THE GUYS COMING DOWN TO EAT ARE GOING TO MAKE A HUGE FUSS.
BUT..
THUMP
I'LL HELP YOU OUT UNTIL LUNCH ENDS.

THAT'S THE EXCUSE I'LL GO WITH...
...BUT IN REALITY, I'M REPAYING YOU FOR THE FAVOR EARLIER.
FOR SOME REASON I JUST CAN'T RELAX.


STEAM
STEAM


EVEN IF YOU TAKE NOTICE OF A SMALL FLOWER,
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'LL CHANGE ANYTHING

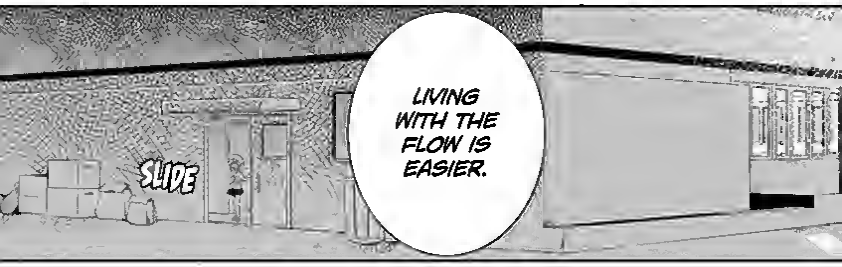
MMHM SEEMS LIKE SHE MADE IT IN TIME FOR DINNER AFTER ALL

BIOW
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
THAT'S WHAT I BELIEVED AT FIRST.
FOR SOME REASON, YOU BEGIN TO BECOME AWARE AND TAKE NOTICE OF ITS EXISTENCE
NOWEVER, AFTER IT ENTERS YOUR EYE FOR THE FIRST TIME,
WHOA... SHE'S GOTTEN A LOT BETTER.
WHIZZ
Nod Nod
WHIZZ
I WONDER IF THIS IS HOW IT FEELS...
...TO HAVE A CLUMSY LITTLE SISTER.

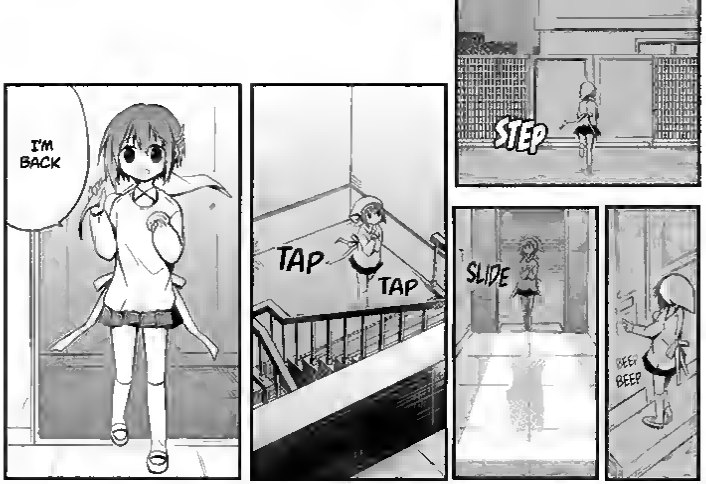
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE SOMETHING LIKE THAT, SO I SAVED SOME SIDE DISHES FOR YOU.
OH, THANKS.
YEAH, WORK TOOK LONGER THAN USUAL TODAY
SAWAMURA-SAN, YOU'RE QUITE LATE FOR DINNER.
CLINK
Please, take it.
Can't be missing out on food.
IT'S SWEET, AND EXTREMELY DELICIOUS
IT'S NOTHING. TODAY'S PUMPKIN
I SEE.
THE OIL SPILLED ALL OVER THE PLACE HAS BEEN BUGGING ME SO I DECIDED TO DO OVERTIME ON MY OWN INITIATIVE
I'll be leaving now though...
DON'T TELL ME YOU STAYED THIS LATE JUST FOR THAT?
THERE'S NOBODY LEFT HERE, YOU KNOW?
OH- NO, I ALSO WANTED TO TAKE THE CHANCE TO CLEAN THE PLACE...

PAT
GOOD WORK
RATTLE
IT'S YOUR OVER-TIME WAGE
TAKE IT
HUH?
UM...
GOOD WORK
THANKS...
OH

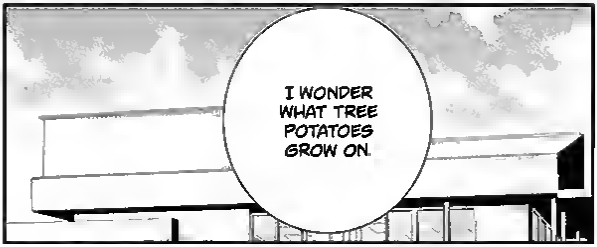
I WONDER HOW LONG IT'S BEEN SINCE I BOTHERED CARING ABOUT THE TASTE OF FOOD.
BITE
OH, SHE'S RIGHT.
THE PUMPKIN HAS A UNIQUELY SWEET TASTE.
DON'T FEEL ANYTHING. DON'T THINK ANYTHING.
...NO, DON'T


SLIDE
LIVING WITH THE FLOW IS EASIER.

BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
GOOD WORK.
TAKE IT IT'S YOUR OVERTIME WAGE
SHUT
Shake
NO! NO!! IT'S JUST MY IMAGI-NATION!!
N- NO!!
THAT'S RIGHT..
..DEEP BREATHS...
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT IT MEANS!!


I'M BACK
TAP
TAP
STEP
SLIDE
BEEP BEEP

OH, NADEKO.
WELCOME HOME.

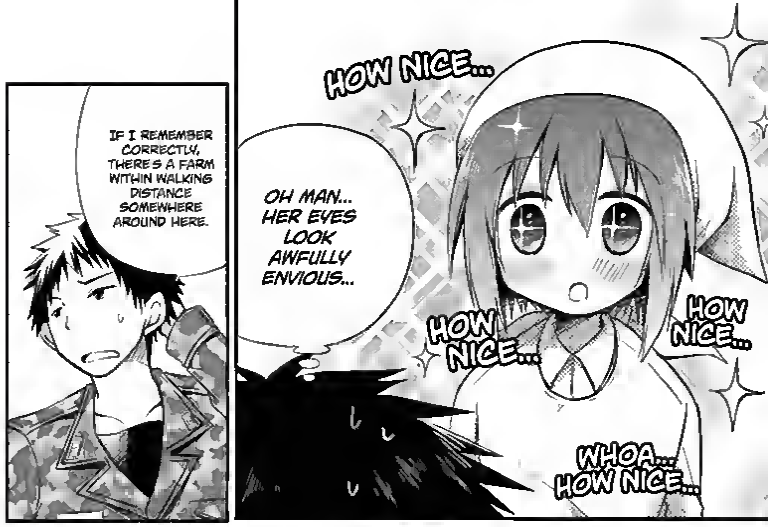

I WONDER WHAT TREE POTATOES GROW ON.

WAIT, SERIOUSLY?!!
HOLD ON SLOW DOWN POTATOES ARE GROWN IN THE GROUND, YOU KNOW?

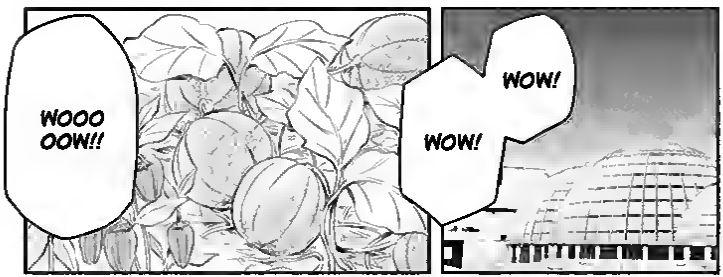
HUH?
LIKE I SAID, POTATOES!
I HAVEN'T EVER SEEN THEM GROWING ON A TREE BEFORE, SO...
Got swept up into helping again.

SAWAMURA-SAN, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN POTATOES GROWING BEFORE?
YEAH I WAS PUT ON SECURITY DETAIL AS PART OF THE JOB BEFORE.

WELL... CONSIDERING HOW GROWING CROPS IS NOW BEING CONDUCTED UNDER THE MOST HEAVY OF SECURITY,
IT ISN'T SURPRISING THAT MOST PEOPLE WOULD HAVE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE.
DAZZLE
I HAD IMAGINED THAT IT WOULD LOOK SOMETHING LIKE THIS THE ENTIRE TIME...
DAZZLE


IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, THERE'S A FARM WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE.
OH MAN... HER EYES LOOK AWFULLY ENVIOUS...
HOW NICE...
HOW NICE...
HOW NICE...
WHOA... HOW NICE...

I'LL GO ASK IF WE CAN TAKE A LOOK.

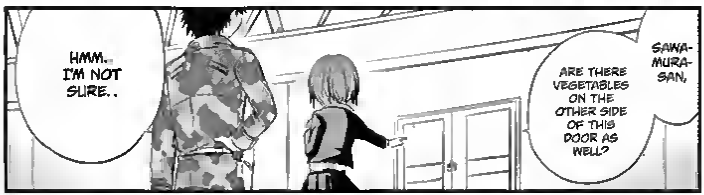

WOOO OOW!!
WOW!
WOW!

THERE'S SO MANY VEGE-TABLES!!
WOW!!
PULL
LOOK, POTATOES ARE GROWN IN THE GROUND LIKE THIS.
IT'S LIKE THEY'RE BLOOMING FROM THE GROUND!!
THESE ARE CABBAGE
I'M GLAD YOU LIKE IT
IT WAS WORTH GOING THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF SENDING REQUESTS TO BRING YOU HERE WHILE I WAS OFF DUTY
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
THIS IS AMAZING, SAWAMURA-SAN! IT'S AMAZING!!

I KNEW BEFORE THIS, BUT...
WE'RE GROWING VEGETABLES IN DOMES LIKE THIS, RATHER THAN OUTSIDE, AREN'T WE?
AFTER ALL, IT SEEMS THAT IF WE TRIED TO GROW THEM OUTSIDE, THE WEIGHT OF THE SAND ..
..WOULD RUIN ALL THE VEGE-TABLES.
IT WOULD BE BETTER IF THE PLANTS COULD GET SUNLIGHT DIRECTLY FROM THE SUN.
BUT THEY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SURVIVE IN THE PLACES THEY CAN GET THAT.
JUST LIKE THE FLOWER THAT'S INSIDE MY BODY..

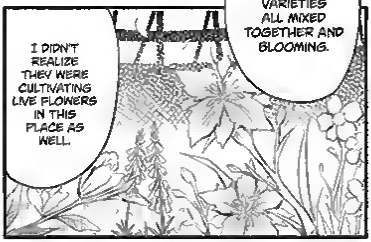
DASH
GET IT OFF!
SAWA-MURA-SAN, GET IT OFF!!
Fuwaah!
I GOT IT, SO STOP MOVING! STOP MOVING!
Crawl Craw
OH.
NADEKO, THERE'S A CABBAGE-WORM ON YOU.
Ehh ?!!
FLINCH
LOOK, IT'S GONE NOW.
SO BUGS SHOW UP EVEN INDOORS, HUH...?
Quiver
Gasp
TH—
THANK YOU...
YEAH...
SHOVE

...?!
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
...!
BA-D


SAWA-MURA-SAN,
ARE THERE VEGETABLES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS DOOR AS WELL?
HMM.. I'M NOT SURE..

IKEA
I'LL HAVE TO MAKE SURE TO REPORT THAT
CLANK CLANK
OH, THE LOCK BROKE DUE TO RUST
KA-CHAK

WOW. THIS IS AMAZING


THERE'S SEVERAL VARIETIES ALL MIXED TOGETHER AND BLOOMING.
I DIDN'T REALIZE THEY WERE CULTIVATING LIVE FLOWERS IN THIS PLACE AS WELL.

A FLOWER FIELD?!

..YOU'VE SEEN THIS MANY LIVE FLOWERS, NADEKO?

ISN'T THIS THE FIRST TIME.

SO EVERYONE WAS STAYING HERE.
I SEE...
IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.
PASS
...NADEKO?
SAWAMURA-SAN..
DID YOU KNOW?
IN ORDER FOR A FLOWER TO BEGIN BLOOMING,
IT HAS TO USE UP ALL OF THE ENERGY CONTAINED IN THE FLOWER, STARTING FROM THE BUD

IN ORDER TO MAKE A FLOWER BLOOM... IN ORDER TO BOND WITH OTHER FLOWERS..
..IN ORDER TO GIVE LIFE TO THE NEXT GENERATION OF FLOWERS.
IF ONE WERE TO MAKE AN ANALOGY TO THAT OF A HUMAN...
IN ORDER TO BE IN LOVE AND CONNECT WITH ANOTHER PERSON..

ONE WOULD HAVE TO COMMIT...
...ALL OF ONESELF TO THAT LOVE.

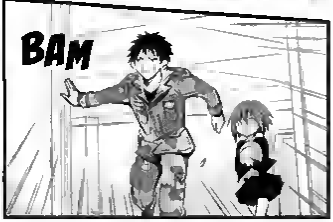
WAIT... WHAT'S GOING ON ALL OF A SUDDEN?

I'VE ALSO WANTED TO FALL IN LOVE, IN MY DREAMS.
HOWEVER, IT WOULD REQUIRE A HUGE PRICE BE PAID
PASS
BY MYSELF..
...AS WELL AS BY MY LOVER.
WHICH IS WHY I'VE NEVER REALLY BEEN ABLE TO MUSTER UP THE WILL TO MAKE THE DECISION.
!
NADEKO?

BOOM

!?!

POP POP POP
BOOM BOOM
GUN SOUNDS?!


BAM

IF I DON'T ESCAPE TO SOMEWHERE SAFE IMMEDIATELY, THEN...
NADEKO IS WITH ME HERE RIGHT NOW.
THIS WAY
BAM
A SURPRISE ATTACK! WE NEED TO HURRY AND PROVIDE BACKUP!
HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON?!
ISN'T THIS PLACE SUPPOSED TO BE PRETTY FAR AWAY FROM THE FRONT LINES?
KYAA!!
BOOM
WHIFF
NADEKO! RUN!!
WHIFF
FUCK!
ENEMIES?!
POP
POP
POP
POP

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
NO, I SHOULD'VE EXPECTED THIS
I KNEW THAT I WAS LIVING IN AN AREA THAT WAS CLOSE TO THE BATTLEFIELD
HOWEVER, I STILL DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND MYSELF THRUST INTO A BATTLEFIELD IN SUCH AN EASY MANNER.
THE BATTLEFIELD HAD ALWAYS SEEMED LIKE SOME-ONE ELSE'S PROBLEM.
THIS ISN'T WORKING.
THERE ARE ENEMIES BLOCKING THE PATH IN ALL DIRECTIONS, AND A LOT OF THEM AT THAT.

SAWAMURA-SAN...
IF NOTHING CHANGES, THEN THERE'S NO WAY FOR THE TWO OF US TO ESCAPE.
WHEN I START SHOOTING AT THEM, I WANT YOU TO RUN IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.
NADEKO. I'M GOING TO AIM FOR THE ENEMY'S BACKSIDE.
THAT'S WAY TOO RECKLESS.
WHAT? BUT DOESN'T THAT MEAN THAT YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE ON THAT MANY ENEMIES ALL ALONE?
IF I'M FORTUNATE, THEN I MIGHT BE ABLE TO WIN THROUGH SHEER LUCK
MEANING IT'D BE A BETTER IDEA TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE
IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING, THEY'LL FIND US SOONER OR LATER.
I'LL BE DRAWING THEIR ATTENTION, WHICH SHOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR YOU TO RUN AWAY

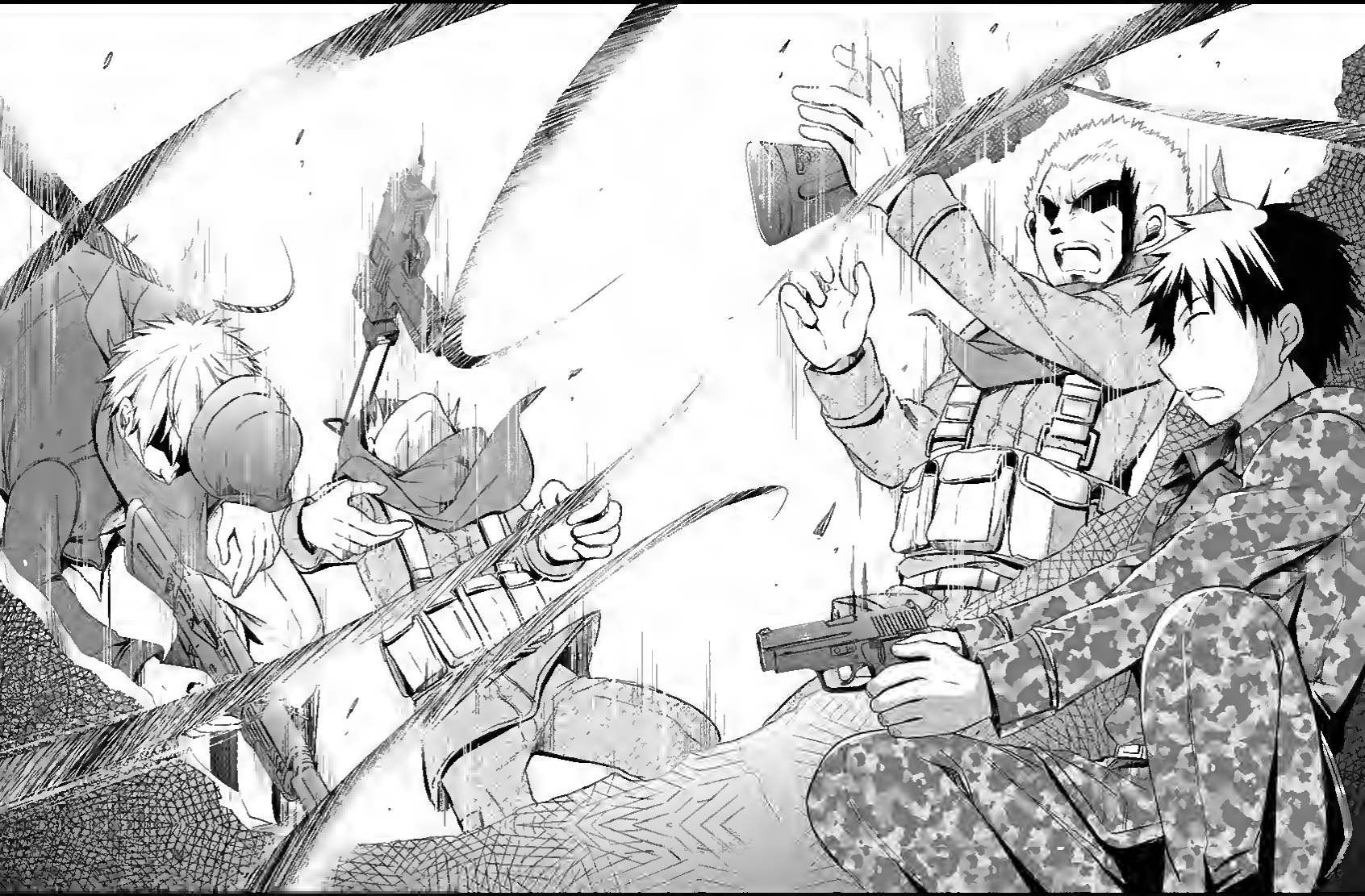
FORGET ABOUT ME, AND JUST FOLLOW MY INSTRUC-TIONS!
EVEN THOUGH THERE'S ALMOST NO CHANCE OF YOU WINNING?!
A-ARE YOU SAYING YOU'RE GOING TO GAMBLE ON THAT?!
MAY I...
...FALL IN LOVE...?
WHAT..?

MAY I FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU, SAWAMURA-SAN?!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU-?!
ANSWER ME, PLEASE!
WHENEVER I MEET YOU, MY HEART STARTS BEATING
HOWEVER, I CONVINCED MYSELF TO BELIEVE THAT IT DIDN'T ACTUALLY MEAN ANYTHING.
STILL,
I CAN'T KEEP DENYING IT.
WHAT THE HELL HAS GOTTEN INTO HER?!
MY LOVE FOR YOU CONTINUES TO BUILD UP IN MY CHEST AND...
...THAT'S WHY..
OUR LIVES ARE IN DANGER RIGHT NOW, SO WHY IS SHE

...MAY I FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU?!
WITH EYES SO SERI-OUS...!!
OKAY, WHATEVER!
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO DO NADEKO, THEN DO IT!
SO JUST HURRY UP...
...AND START RUNNING!!
FREEZE

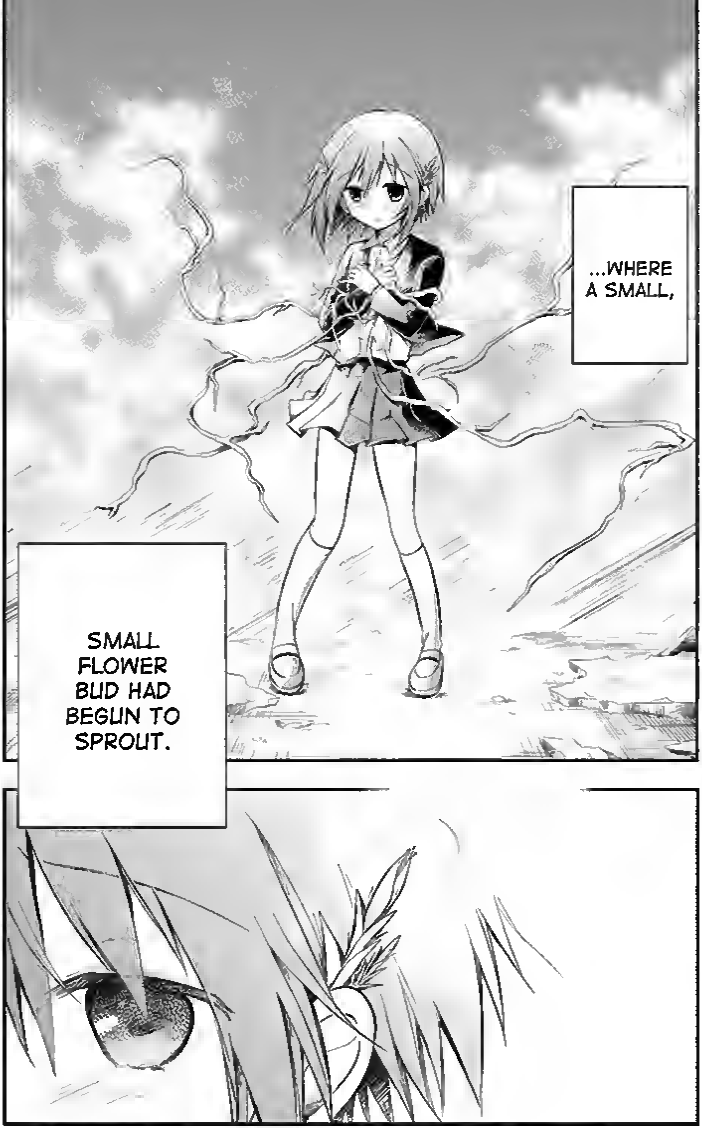
SILENCE

DEAD.
TOO SLOW...
OH...



IT ALL HAPPENED IN AN INSTANT.
AN INNUMERABLE AMOUNT OF WHIP-LIKE THINGS...
...STRUCK DOWN...
...THE ENEMIES AND THEIR GUNS.

CLATTER
WHOOSH
THE WHIPS WERE THEN PULLED BACK,
THEIR ORIGIN BEING...



Chapter 1 END

Kalyx